Bodies of Ex-FBI Aide, Wife Found

Fairfax Deaths Called Murder-Suicide

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By Ken Ringle
Washington Post Staff Writer

A former FBI agent employed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police fatally shot his wife and himself yesterday in what Fairfax County police described as a "very methodical" murder-suicide.

Police said Nelson A. Watson, 61, and his wife Alice, 60, were found dead in their pink-trimmed, white brick home at 3326 Longbranch Dr, less than 10 minutes after Watson had called police to a report a shooting.

Each had been shot once in the head with a 12-gauge pump shotgun found beside Watson's body on a basement day bed, police said. Mrs. Watson's body was found upstairs in a front hall.

Watson held a doctoral degree in psychology and was in charge of the professional standards division of the IACP.

Police listed no official motive for the shooting but said a handwritten note found taped to the wal above Watson's body "indicated he did this because of his wife's health."

Officials did not disclose the exact contents of the note, but neighbors said Mrs. Watson had been in poor health for years.

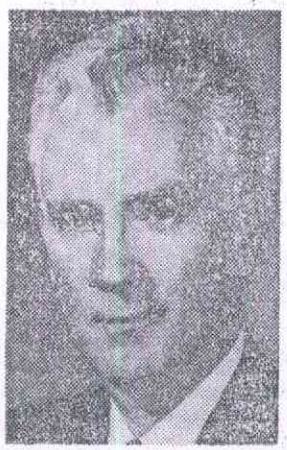
County police said Fairfax Medical Examiner Claude Cooper called the shootings a murder-suicide.

Police said Mrs. Watson died about 8:15 a.m. yesterday and Watson an hour later.

Police said they found personal items and valuables gathered together and all of Watson's credit cards cut up.

At 9:16 a.m., police records showed, Watson called police headquarters in Fairfax, gave his name and address and said: "I want to report a crime. I have just killed my wife. Just tell them to come."

Watson was dead when officers arrived eight minutes later.



DR. NELSON A. WATSON
... 'methodical'

Neighbors and friends of the couple described them as "wonderful people" and Watson himself as "brilliant" and "stable." They said he was devoted to his wife, cared for her through numerous illnesses and had planned to have her accompany him to Florida on a speaking trip last Sunday.

When she felt too ill to go, they said, Watson delayed his own departure but had been scheduled to leave yesterday. They said Mrs. Watson was not bedridden, but was a diabetic and suffered from an ear disorder and other ailments.

A nationally known criminologist, Watson had written and lectured widely on human relations and police-community relations. He taught school in New York State before joining the FBI in 1942 in Washington as a special agent, and he taught for 13 years at the FBI Academy at Quantico.

By Don Hubbard

The bodies of Nelson A. Watson and his wife were found in this house at 3326 Langbranch Dr. in Fairfax.